

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A machine for gathering products that lie on the ground, comprising:

a main frame bearing a first lateral gathering device with which a first windrowing device is associated; and

a second lateral gathering device with which a second windrowing device is associated,

wherein the main frame further bears a central gathering device with which a third windrowing device is associated, and

wherein the central gathering device and the third windrowing device are configured to be moved relative to the main frame such that ~~they~~ the central gathering device and the third windrowing device can be transposed into a first ~~work~~ position in which ~~they~~ the central gathering device and the third windrowing device are aligned with the first and second gathering devices and windrowing devices and are substantially adjacent to ~~these~~ the first and second gathering devices and windrowing devices such that said first, second and central gathering devices are in contact with said products, and into at least a second ~~work~~ position in which ~~they~~ the central gathering device and the third windrowing device are offset relative to the first and second gathering devices and windrowing devices such that said first and second gathering devices are aligned with each other and in contact with said products but said central gathering device is not into contact with said products.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 18, wherein the central gathering device and the third windrowing device can be offset heightwise.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 18, wherein the central gathering device and the third windrowing device are connected to the main frame by a lift mechanism.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the lift mechanism includes connecting arms that are articulated to the main frame by axes that are substantially horizontal and perpendicular to a direction of forward travel and articulated to the third windrowing device, which is connected to the central gathering device, by axes that are substantially horizontal and perpendicular to the direction of forward travel.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the lift mechanism comprises at least one hydraulic ram that is articulated to the main frame and to a connecting arm.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the connecting arms lie in two planes that are offset relative to one another in the heightwise direction.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 23, wherein the lift mechanism comprises first, second, and third connecting arms of which the first and second arms lie in the same plane and of which the third arm lies in a second plane.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 24, wherein the third arm lies substantially at equal distances from the first and second arms.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 18, further comprising deflectors configured to guide displaced products arranged on rear sides of the windrowing devices.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein associated with the third windrowing device is a deflector configured to be moved relative to the third windrowing device.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 27, wherein the deflector is configured to be moved automatically between a substantially vertical position that it occupies when the central gathering device and the third windrowing device are in the first position, and a substantially horizontal position that it occupies when they are in their second position.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein the deflector is flexible and is fixed at one of its ends to the third windrowing device and at its other end to the main frame.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein the deflector passes over first and second rollers of which the first roller is fixed relative to the main frame and the second roller is configured to move along the main frame.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 30, wherein the moving roller is mounted on lateral supports configured to move on guides fixed to the main frame.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 31, wherein at least one of the lateral supports is connected to a draw-spring.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein the deflector is rigid and is articulated at one of its ends to the third windrowing device by an axis.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A machine as claimed in claim 32, wherein the other end of the deflector is guided by a roller on a rail fixed to the main frame configured to cause the deflector to move between the substantially vertical position and the substantially horizontal position.

Claim 35 (New): A machine as claimed in claim 18, wherein in said first position, said first, second and third windrowing devices are aligned with each other and can be driven to displace said products to form a lateral windrow at one side of said machine.

Claim 36 (New): A machine as claimed in claim 35, wherein in said second position, said first, second and third windrowing devices are positioned such that said first and second windrowing devices can be driven to displace said products to form a central windrow in a space freed by the central gathering device offset relative to said first and second windrowing devices.